



NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL Central African Republic (CAR)

**First Quarterly Report
30th September – 31st December 2014**

Name of Organization:	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Name of Project:	Emergency Response to Displacement in the Central African Republic (CAR)
Cooperative Agreement #:	AID-OFDA-G-14-00212
Amount of Funding:	\$2,220,880
Time Period of Agreement:	September 30, 2014 to September 29, 2015
Country:	Central African Republic (CAR)
Site(s)/Location(s):	Central African Republic/Kemo and Mambéré-Kadéi Prefectures and Bangui Town and immediate surroundings
Type(s) and Number of Beneficiaries:	57.720 (46.410 IDPs, 11.310 host community): - Relief Commodities: 21.600 (17.280 IDPs) - Shelter : 12.250 (9.850 IDPs) - WASH 57.720 (46.410 IDPs)
Primary Point of Contact/Title:	Matthew Stephensen, Program Adviser
Phone Number:	Phone: +4799295698
E-Mail Address:	matthew.stephensen@nrc.no
Date of Quarterly Report:	31 January 2015
Time Period Covered by Report:	30 September 2014 – 31 December 2014

1. Background

After decades of strife instability, CAR plunged into a security, political and humanitarian crisis in March 2013 when the Seleka, a coalition of mainly Muslim armed groups, overthrew President Bozizé. The Seleka's rule was marked by corruption and human rights violations. In the second half of 2013, long-standing village militias and self-defence groups known as anti-balaka, mostly Christian and animist, reorganised to challenge the Seleka, and were reinforced by former army soldiers (FACA) and Presidential Guards mostly loyal to ex-President Bozizé. When they began carrying out armed operations, the targets of their attacks were mainly Muslim civilians and Seleka. Under international pressure, the Seleka leader Djotodia resigned from the presidency in January 2014 and soon after a transitional government was formed. Violent confrontations between as well as attacks of the Seleka, the anti-balaka and the civilian population have since continued on a regular basis. Efforts to end hostilities culminated in the Brazzaville cease-fire agreement of 23 July 2014 and the subsequent reshuffled government included representatives of ex-Séléka and anti-balaka elements. However, the ceasefire has been repeatedly violated.

The conflict led to a humanitarian crisis, including displacement of the population inside and outside of CAR. An estimated 51,000 remain displaced in the capital, along with at least 438,000 across the country. In addition, since 1st December 2013, an estimated 183,000 Central Africans have fled to neighbouring countries and a large part of the Muslim population has either left the country, fled to the north, or remains in enclaves. While the crisis has affected the entire population of 4.6 million, about 2.7 million people (out of a total of 4.6 million), are currently estimated to be in need of urgent assistance, with 1.5 million people in a moderate to severe food security situation. The current situation also points to severe difficulties for both residents and displaced with limited or no access to basic social services, including health and education. The conflict also resulted in large-scale human rights violations, including summary executions, torture and ill treatment, sexual violence and looting of public and private property, which have been perpetrated by all parties to the conflict against the civilian population with impunity. A recent (December, 2014) UN report (from the Commission of Enquiry) found that anti-balaka had carried out ethnic cleansing of the country's Muslim minority. Social cohesion has been eroded and there are growing inter/intra-community tensions. The community social fabric has been torn by the conflict and the communities' ability to live together has been damaged.

In Kémo prefecture, mass looting and burning of houses occurred as the Ex-Séléka withdrew from the province during January and February 2014. They left the area under the control of the Anti-Balaka who are undisciplined, have little command structure and are engaging in criminal activities. In others parts of the prefecture, villages are still under control of the Ex-Séléka, resulting in regular clashes with Anti-Balaka groups as well as MISCA and Sangaris (French military) troops; often resulting in new sudden displacement.

In Mambéré-Kadéi prefecture, the arrival of the Séléka in March 2013 was accompanied by human rights violations

including public executions that severely traumatized the population. Ten months later, following Djotoda's resignation as President, the Ex-Séléka left the town, burning down some villages along the way. The Anti-Balaka moved in and filled the power void, taking out revenge attacks on the Muslim and Peuhl population who the Anti-Balaka accuse of having assisted the Ex-Seleka. Clashes between Anti-Balaka and Peuhl herdsman increased in rural areas. The insecurity and competition for the illegal exploitation of artisanal diamond mines has caused thousands to lose their livelihoods. A small Muslim population is living in a collective site in the towns of Carnot and Berberati, without any freedom of movement.

2. Progress on activities

During the reporting period, NRC's priority was to recruit project staff, to define tools and procedures and put in place the NRC's Emergency Unit in three locations : Bangui, Carnot and Sibut. For this purpose, we recruited and trained 22 new NRC staffs and we prepared our field offices for emergency activities with sufficient contingency capacities.

Activities during the reporting period included:

- Deployment of an international Emergency Expert with extensive experience in the RRMP (Rapid Response Mechanism to Movement of Population) mechanism in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The same approach has been replicated in the Central African Republic by UNICEF and it is known as RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism);
- Advertisement and recruitment process (tests, interviewing and selection) of 23 positions for the OFDA national teams (emergency and M&E teams) and 22 were recruited;
- Training of staffs on NRC values and mission, Code of Conduct, humanitarian and protection principles, anti-corruption, protection and quality, how to do a MSA (rapid multisectorial assesment), electronic data collection, vulnerability criteria and emergency intervention procedures;
- Procurement of all needed equipments and dispatch of the contingency stock in each field base and main office such as program goods and vehicules has been finalized and will be received in January;
- Assessments of targeted Kiosque Bornes Fontaines (KBF) in Bangui for the WASH (Water, sanitation, hygiene) sector program;
- Meetings and coordination with stakeholders involved in KBF rehabilitation in Bangui;
- Meetings with each concerned cluster and RRM coordination mechanism to presentat the project and a close coordination with RRM actors to avoid duplications;
- Emergency interventions organized in the Sibut area (3 noon food items - NFI distributions and 1 WASH for 5 villages) for new IDPs and host communities during the reporting period.

3. Analysis of Progress:

For this reporting period, NRC was essentially in the recruitment and procurement stage. However, due to the context and events (see RRM MSA report) in Kemo prefecture (Sibut Area) during November with its new OFDA emergency team, NRC was able to provide 210 NFI kits donated by UNHCR (contingency stock of NFI cluster) to 210 households affected rapidly after the crisis and a WASH team was deployed for a large hygiene promotion in the host areas (5 villages).

In relation to the indicators:

Sector: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities

Subsector: Non-food items

Indicator	Progress
Total number and per item USD cost of NFIs distributed, by type (e.g., plastic sheeting, flash tarpaulin, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, water containers, other).	Procurement process ended in the beginning of January and warehouses in Bangui, Carnot and Sibut will be supplied shortly. Distribution of these items will begin in the next reporting period
Total number of men/women receiving NFIs, by type (e.g. plastic sheeting, flash tarpaulin, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, water containers, other)	3 NFI distributions (end of November) and 1 NFI fair (beginning of December) were conducted by NRC with the new OFDA emergency team led by the Emergency Expert to assist 258 households HH (1,548 persons; 619 males and 929 females). 210 HH with NFI kits (1,260 persons; 504 males and 756 females) donated by UNHCR and 48 HH with a voucher of 57\$ (30,000 XOF) for NFI fair (288 persons, 115 males and 173 females).

Total number and per item USD value of cash/vouchers distributed for NFIs, by type (e.g. plastic sheeting, flash tarpaulin, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, water containers, other)	1 NFI fair (11 th of December) was conducted by NRC to assist 48 HH (288 persons) with a voucher of 57\$ - Total value distributed = 2736\$
Total number of men/women receiving a mosquito net	A national distribution of mosquito nets is scheduled by the Ministry of Health for each family during the 1st quarter of 2015

Sector: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Subsector: Hygiene Promotion

Indicator	Progress
Number of men/women receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	2 hygiene promotion sessions were held during this period, in 5 host villages. 2,567 peoples were targeted (1,153 males and 1,414 females)

Sector: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Subsector: Sanitation Infrastructure

Indicator	Progress
Number of men/women directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure programme.	This activity will start in the next quarter according to the needs to be identified in the case of future displacements
Number of men/women who report using a latrine the last time they defecated	This activity will start in the next quarter according to the needs to be identified in the case of future displacements

Sector: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Subsector: Water Supply Infrastructure

Indicator	Progress
Number of men/women directly benefiting from the water supply infrastructure program	<p>- 5 boreholes (hand pumps) are under rehabilitation (in the same host area where NFI distribution took place) and will be reported in the next quarterly report.</p> <p>- In Bangui, a technical evaluation was performed in 18 “Kiosque Borne Fontaine” (KBF) in collaboration with SODECA and the WASH cluster working group. Among these 18 KBFs, 10 are selected for the NRC/OFDA rehabilitation program. These KBFs are located in 2 specific areas in Bangui, identified as return areas for IPDs in the Don Bosco camp where NRC is currently assisting these beneficiaries. These rehabilitation activities are part of a larger program managed by several NGOs and coordinated by UNICEF and SODECA. During the second quarter, NRC will purchase all materials and equipment needed to start the technical work. In parallel, NRC works in close collaboration with all stakeholders regarding the selection process and the vulnerability criteria in order to design a harmonized strategy and methodology for the voucher distribution (especially with OXFAM which is implementing the same activity in Bangui)</p>

Number of households collecting all water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources (obj. 80% of 14.000)	Will be evaluated after the intervention
% of Free Residual tests performed at household level showing a FRC rate between 0.2 and 0.5 mg/L (among population benefiting from purification tablets) (obj. 85% of 2500 HH)	NA for this reporting period.

Sector: Shelter and Settlements

Sub-sector: Emergency/Transition Shelter

Indicator	Progress
Number of households in the programme area receiving emergency/transitional shelter	This activity will start in the next quarter according to the needs to be identified in the case of future displacements.
Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter pursuant to SPHERE project standards and FOG Guidelines	This activity will start in the next quarter according to the needs to be identified in the case of future displacements
Percentage of total affected populations in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter assistance, by sex	This activity will start in the next quarter according to the needs to be identified in the case of future displacements
Total USD amount and percentage of approved project budgets for emergency/transitional shelter spent on goods and services produced in the affected host country	This activity will start in the next quarter according to the needs to be identified in the case of future displacements

4. Collaboration / Coordination:

NRC has been participating in the NFI/Shelter and WASH cluster meetings and has a close collaboration with the CAR RRM mechanism.

Bilateral discussions have also taken place between NRC, UNICEF emergency section and RRM partners and NRC is now officially a member of the weekly "comité de pilotage RRM" (mechanism for humanitarian alerts sharing and agree upon priorities for MSAs or interventions) so that a coordinated and rapid response is implemented with no inter-agency overlaps.

For specific activities in Bangui (KBF rehabilitation), NRC is actively participating in the "WASH cluster KBF working group". This group includes UNICEF, OXFAM, IOM, SODECA and all partners involved in KBF rehabilitation. The main objective is to standardize designs, strategy and methodology.

After the NFI distribution and fair, NRC has shared relevant reports (MSAs and interventions reports) by e-mail with the OFDA representative in Bangui (Jay Nash).

5. Challenges

The major challenges confronting NRC:

- NRC is receiving large numbers of applicants for project vacancies but many CVs, copies of diploma or employer certificates are fake documents.
- Problem of skills and capabilities of staffs results in significant investment in training and capacity building. Time and support are needed before they can be operational and autonomous.
- Difficulties of supply on the local market, due to the weakening of the trading system in the country in general, results in a significant increase of prices of basic goods. For example, it has been difficult to find local suppliers in Bangui who can supply NFI in large quantities and at a reasonable price. Similarly, basic items for construction have reached exorbitant prices in Bangui (e.g. cement that before the crisis cost 18 \$ now costs 26\$). Foreign suppliers at the border are hesitant to carry goods

in the Central African roads for safety reasons (looting on the roads).

- Living conditions for minorities trapped in enclaves are of concern. Lack of freedom of movement, food insecurity, inability to access adequate shelter and WASH facilities, as well as constant feeling of insecurity and fear, are the major challenges for such populations. Both the humanitarian community and national authorities struggle to overcome such challenges, and provide adequate, durable solutions. Acts of violence, including human rights violations (arbitrary arrest, summary executions, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment) against those populations are reported on a regular basis in all NRC's areas of intervention (Carnot, Berberati, Bangui, Dekoa).

6. Way forward

NRC has taken the following actions to overcome these challenges:

- In relation to false documents produced by applicants, NRC ruled out any questionable applications. Furthermore, a systematic referencing was made with previous employers. Finally, all candidates had to undergo a written test to ensure their basic skills. The last selected candidates were then audited during an interview.
- In relation to skills of staffs, NRC CAR has the means to train and support all staff. In parallel, it seems clear that during this phase of internal reinforcement, NRC may be forced to over-staff its teams to fill a little bit their shortcomings.
- In relation to local supply difficulties, at the beginning of the project, NRC has tried to benefit from UNHCR or UNICEF (RRM) procurement opportunities to make our contingency stocks and thus ensure a uniform quality between NRC and key stakeholders in emergency NFI intervention. Unfortunately, it appeared that UNHCR could not accede to our request because their mandate does not allow them to supply partners to build their pre-positioned contingency stock. NRC submitted a proposal to become UNICEF's RRM partner, which could allow us to easily access their emergency stocks and thus their supply capacity. Unfortunately, after two months of discussions, UNICEF has not supported NRC on this because of lack of funding. Therefore, NRC is looking into a procurement process from Cameroon (International tender launched early December) through a logistic hub in Berberati (southern Carnot) that we believe will be set up in the coming days / weeks. Lessons learned on this first experience is under way to confirm whether or not this option is of interest.
- Regarding the Do No Harm (DNH) problematic, NRC builds the capacity of its teams on risk analysis and safety management to ensure being able to pre-identify risks take all possible mitigation measures. This also involves the implementation of NRC's access policy.
- NRC has regularly conducted advocacy activities at local, national and international level in order to raise the attention of concerned actors (UN agencies, MINUSCA, France, EU, US) regarding the challenges facing IDPs trapped in enclaves. For instance, NRC has called on international forces to ensure the physical protection of these populations, as well as on humanitarian actors to scale up assistance in enclaves, by providing adequate food, shelter and WASH facilities. Briefing papers, letters, press releases and other media/advocacy products have been developed by NRC and jointly with like-minded organisations.

7. Planning for the next quarter (period January to March 2015)

For the next quarter NRC is planning to do the following activities:

- Implementation of the Alert Network in the targeted area in order to collect immediate information and data.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the emergency interventions performed in December 2014.
- Deployment of emergency stocks in Sibut/Carnot/Bangui areas.
- Purchase process for KBF's rehabilitation activity.
- Validation of the beneficiaries selection system for water/soap vouchers in Bangui. Validation of the 10 KBFs selection in Bangui.

